

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A settlement system using coupon information, comprising:

an information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase information trader, including:

a first purchase information memory configured to store coupon information usable by a user to purchase a commodity or utilize a service at a store;

a purchase information selection unit configured to select the coupon information for distribution to a terminal apparatus associated with the user from said first purchase information memory;

a first communication unit coupled to a wireless connection, configured to send the selected coupon information to the terminal apparatus, and to receive use log information reflecting use of the sent coupon information from the terminal apparatus; [[and]]

a first use log memory configured to store a use record of the sent purchase information according to the use log information; and

a use log counting unit configured to count the use record for a store which makes a contract with the purchase information trader for distribution of coupon information, and to output a request of charge of distribution based on the counted result;

wherein said first communication unit sends the request of charge to a sales apparatus of the store,
the terminal apparatus including:
 a second communication unit coupled to a wireless connection;
 a second purchase information memory configured to store the coupon information sent by the information distribution apparatus, the coupon information sent by the information distribution apparatus being received by the second communication unit;
 a display unit configured to display the coupon information stored in said second purchase information memory;
 an operation unit configured to select displayed coupon information, the coupon information selected by the operation unit being sent to [[a]] the sales apparatus wirelessly through said second communication unit in response to an operation performed by the user when the user purchases the commodity or utilizes the service at the store; and
 a second use log memory configured to store a use result of the coupon information sent by the sales apparatus and received through said second communication unit, the use log information reflecting the use result and being sent to the information distribution apparatus through said second communication unit;
 and
 the sales apparatus located at the store, including:
 a third communication unit coupled to a wireless connection;
 a purchase information decision unit configured to determine a classification of the coupon information sent by the

terminal apparatus and received through said third communication unit;
a settlement program memory configured to store a plurality of settlement programs each corresponding to a classification of coupon information; and
a settlement unit configured to select a settlement program corresponding to the classification determined by said purchase information decision unit from the plurality of settlement programs, and execute a settlement processing of the coupon information sent by the terminal apparatus by using the settlement program, the use result reflecting the settlement processing and being sent to the terminal apparatus through said third communication unit;
wherein said third communication unit receives the request of charge from said information distribution apparatus.

2. (Previously presented) The settlement system according to claim 1,

wherein

the coupon information is information to receive a service such as a commodity discount or a gift,
the information distribution apparatus comprises one of a server to distribute the coupon information, an internet terminal connected to the server, and a base station of information source, and
the settlement program is a coupon settlement program to execute a discount settlement or a gift selection for a commodity of the coupon information.

3. (Original) The settlement system according to claim 2, wherein the coupon information includes a purchase information identifier, an object commodity name, a privilege, an object store name, and a classification name.

4. (Previously presented) The settlement system according to claim 1, wherein,

the first purchase information memory stores location information of each object store included in coupon information, and
said purchase information selection unit sends the coupon information of which the location information of the object store neighbors with a location of the terminal apparatus of the user when said first communication unit receives the location of the terminal apparatus.

5. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 1, wherein the use log information includes a purchase information identifier, a user identifier of the terminal apparatus, a store identifier used for the coupon information, and a use date.

6. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 1, wherein the purchase information selection unit sends purchase information to the terminal apparatus of a particular user through said first communication unit if said purchase information memory stores the use log information of the particular user.

7. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 1,
wherein

the operation unit inputs a selection condition for the user to receive the coupon information on said display unit, and
said purchase information selection unit sends new coupon information to the terminal apparatus of the user through said first communication unit if said purchase information memory stores the new coupon information matched with the selection condition.

8. (Previously presented) The settlement system according to claim 1,
wherein,

the display unit displays coupon information usable by the sales apparatus when the terminal apparatus is wirelessly connected to the sales apparatus, and
said second communication unit sends the coupon information to the sales apparatus when said operation unit indicates the coupon information to be used by the sales apparatus on said display unit.

9. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 6,
wherein

the purchase information is recommendation information for the seller utilized by a user,
the information distribution apparatus comprises one of a server to distribute the recommendation information, an internet terminal connected to the server, and a base station of information source, and

the settlement program is a program to issue a proof of coming to store or a proof of purchase in order to send the proof to the terminal apparatus.

10. (Previously presented) The settlement system according to claim 9, wherein the recommendation information includes a purchase information identifier, an object store name, and a classification name.

11. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 6, wherein the purchase information is a prize information for a user to participate, the information distribution apparatus is one of a server to distribute the prize information, an internet terminal connected to the server, and a base station of information source, and the settlement program is a program to issue a prize point if an object commodity of the prize is included in settlement commodities or if an object service of the prize is included in settlement services.

12. (Original) The settlement system according to claim 11, wherein the prize information includes an identifier, an object commodity name, a number of obtained points, a number of necessary points, and a classification name, and the prize point is sent as the use log information from the information distribution apparatus to the terminal apparatus of the user, and stored in said use log memory in the terminal apparatus.

13. (Original) The settlement system according to claim 12, wherein in the terminal apparatus, the prize information and the prize point are sent to the information distribution apparatus in order to proceed a subscription of the prize if the prize point stored in said use log memory satisfies the number of necessary points described in the prize information.

14. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 6, wherein

the purchase information is use registration information for a user to count a use frequency in the sales apparatus,

the information distribution apparatus comprises one of a server to distribute the use registration information, an internet terminal connected to the server, and a base station of information source, and

the settlement program is a program to vary a winning probability of a prize according to the use frequency sent by the terminal apparatus of a user when an object commodity is purchased or an object service is utilized by the user.

15. (Original) The settlement system according to claim 14, wherein the use registration information including the use frequency is sent from the terminal apparatus of the user to the sales apparatus when the object commodity is purchased or the object service is utilized by the user in the sales apparatus, and updated use frequency as the use result is sent from the sales apparatus to the terminal apparatus, and stored in said use log memory in the terminal apparatus.

16. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 6,
wherein
- the purchase information is course information from a present location to a destination of a user,
- the information distribution apparatus comprises a server to distribute the course information in response to information of the present location and the destination sent by the terminal apparatus of the user,
- the sales apparatus comprises an automatic ticket vending machine,
- the settlement program is a program to calculate a fare corresponding to the course information sent by the terminal apparatus when the user of the terminal apparatus purchases a ticket to the destination from the automatic ticket vending machine.
17. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 16,
wherein the automatic ticket vending machine turns on a light of a purchase button corresponding to the fare on a panel including a plurality of purchase buttons each corresponding to a different fare.
18. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 6,
wherein
- the purchase information is payment request information for a purchase procedure executed between an electronic trade server and a terminal apparatus of a user,
- the information distribution apparatus comprises the electronic trade server, and

the settlement program is a program to receive a price and execute a settlement in response to the payment request information sent by the terminal apparatus when the user pays an amount of money described in the payment request information to the sales apparatus as a payment counter.

19. (Original) The settlement system according to claim 18, wherein the payment request information includes a purchase information identifier, a payment request number, an amount of money, and a classification name.

20. (Original) The settlement system according to claim 19, wherein the sales apparatus sends a proof of payment to the terminal apparatus, and sends settlement information including the payment request number to the electronic trade server after the sales apparatus receives the amount of money from the user and executes a settlement of the payment.

21. (Previously Presented) The settlement system according to claim 1, wherein the information distribution apparatus further comprises:

a use log analysis unit configured to analyze a comment of the use log information of each user and generate a selection condition of each user to select suitable coupon information according to the analysis result, and
wherein said purchase information selection unit selects the coupon information from said purchase information memory according to the selection condition.

22. (Original) The settlement system according to claim 21, wherein
the use log information includes a purchase information identifier, a user
identifier, and the comment of the user of the terminal apparatus,
and
the selection condition includes the user identifier, and a condition
representing a tendency of the user in comparison with other users.

23. (Currently Amended) The settlement system according to claim 1, the
~~information distribution apparatus further comprising:~~

wherein said [[a]] use log counting unit counts configured to sum the use
log information record for each of a plurality of stores each of which
makes a contract with the purchase information trader for [[of]]
distribution of coupon information, and to output outputs a request
of charge of distribution based on the counted sum result to the
sales apparatus of each store.

24. (Currently Amended) A settlement system using coupon information,
comprising:

a portable terminal apparatus associated with a user and operable to
perform wireless communication, the portable terminal apparatus
configured to receive coupon information usable by the user to
purchase a commodity or utilize a service at a store, store the
coupon information in a memory, and send comment information
related to the commodity purchased or the service utilized by the
user;

an information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase
information trader and operable to perform wireless communication,
the information distribution apparatus configured to receive the

comment information sent by the portable terminal apparatus, distribute the coupon information presented by a commodity sales or service trader and the comment information related to the coupon information to the portable terminal apparatus, and manage a frequency of use of the coupon information and the comment information; and

a sales apparatus, located at the store[[,]] and associated with the commodity sales or service trader and operable to perform wireless communication, the sales apparatus configured to execute a settlement and a proof of purchasing a commodity or utilizing a service according to the coupon information stored in the portable terminal apparatus in response to an operation performed by the user when the user purchases the commodity or utilizes the service at the store,

wherein said information distribution apparatus varies a charge for distribution of coupon information of the purchase information trader to collect from the commodity sales or service trader according to the frequency of use of the coupon information and the comment information, and sends a request of the varied charge to said sales apparatus.

25. (Currently Amended) An information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase information trader, comprising:

a purchase information memory configured to store coupon information usable by a user to purchase a commodity or utilize a service in a sales apparatus located at a store;

a purchase information selection unit configured to select the coupon information to be distributed to a terminal apparatus associated with the user from said purchase information memory;

a communication unit coupled to a wireless connection, configured to send the selected coupon information to the terminal apparatus and receive use log information reflecting a result of a use of the selected coupon information from the terminal apparatus; [[and]]
a use log memory configured to store a use record of the selected coupon information for each user according to the use log information; and
a use log counting unit configured to count the use record for a store which makes a contract with the purchase information trader for distribution of coupon information, and to output a request of charge of distribution based on the counted result;
wherein said first communication unit sends the request of charge to the sales apparatus.

26. (Currently Amended) A terminal apparatus associated with a user, comprising:
- a communication unit coupled to a wireless connection;
a purchase information memory configured to store coupon information sent by an information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase information trader through said communication unit, the coupon information being usable by the user to purchase a commodity or utilize a service in a sales apparatus located at a store;
a display unit configured to display the coupon information stored in said purchase information memory;
an operation unit configured to select the coupon information from the displayed coupon information, the selected coupon information being sent to the sales apparatus through said communication unit in response to an [[user]] operation performed by the user when the user purchases the commodity or utilizes the service at store; and

a use log memory configured to store use log information as a use result of the coupon information sent by the sales apparatus through said communication unit, the use log information being sent to the information distribution apparatus through said communication unit.

27. (Currently Amended) A sales apparatus, located at a store, comprising:
- a communication unit coupled to a wireless connection;
 - a purchase information decision unit configured to decide a classification of coupon information sent by a terminal apparatus associated with a user through said communication unit when the user purchases a commodity or utilizes a service at the store;
 - a settlement program memory configured to store a plurality of settlement programs each corresponding to a classification of coupon information; and
 - a settlement unit configured to select a settlement program corresponding to the classification of the coupon information decided by said purchase information decision unit from the plurality of settlement programs, and execute a settlement processing of the coupon information by using the settlement program;
- wherein said communication unit sends[.,] a use result of the coupon information being sent to the terminal apparatus and receives a request of charge based on the use result from an information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase information trader through said communication unit.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing coupon information in a computer associated with a purchase information trader, comprising:
- storing, in a memory of the computer, coupon information usable by a user to purchase a commodity or utilize a service at a store;

selecting, from the memory, coupon information to be distributed to a terminal apparatus associated with the user;
sending the selected coupon information to the terminal apparatus via a wireless communication;
receiving use log information reflecting a result of a use of the selected coupon information from the terminal apparatus via the wireless communication; [[and]]
storing, in the memory, a use record of the selected coupon information for each user according to the use log information;
counting the use record for a store which makes a contract with the service information trader for distribution of coupon information; and sending a request of charge of distribution based on the counted result to a sales apparatus of the store.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing coupon information in a terminal apparatus associated with a user, comprising:
- storing, in a memory of the terminal apparatus, coupon information sent by an information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase information trader, the coupon information being usable by the user to purchase a commodity or utilize a service in a sales apparatus located at a store;
- displaying the stored coupon information;
- selecting coupon information from the displayed coupon information;
- sending the selected coupon information to the sales apparatus via a wireless communication in response to an operation performed by the user when the user purchases the commodity or utilizes the service at the store;
- storing, in the memory, use log information as a use result of the selected coupon information sent by the sales apparatus; and

sending the use log information to the information distribution apparatus via the wireless communication.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for settling in a computer located at a store, comprising:

receiving, via a wireless communication, coupon information sent by a terminal apparatus associated with a user when the user purchases a commodity or utilizes a service at the store;
determining a classification of the coupon information;
selecting a settlement program corresponding to the classification of the coupon information from a plurality of settlement programs stored in a memory of the computer;
executing settlement processing of the coupon information using the settlement program; [[and]]
sending, via the wireless communication, a use result of the coupon information to the terminal apparatus; and
receiving, via the wireless communication, a request of charge based on the use result from an information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase information trader.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system associated with a purchase information trader to perform a method, the method comprising:

storing coupon information usable by a user to purchase a commodity or utilize a service in a sales apparatus located a store;
selecting coupon information to be distributed to a terminal apparatus associated with the user;

sending the selected coupon information to the terminal apparatus via a wireless communication;

receiving a use log information reflecting a result of a use of the selected coupon information from the terminal apparatus via the wireless communication; [[and]]

storing a use record of the selected coupon information for each user according to the use log information;

counting the use record for a store which makes a contract with the purchase information trader for distribution of coupon information;

and

sending a request of charge of distribution based on the counted result to the sales apparatus.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method comprising:

storing coupon information sent by an information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase information trader, the coupon information being usable by a user to purchase a commodity or utilize a service in a sales apparatus located at a store;

displaying the stored coupon information;

selecting the coupon information from the displayed coupon information;

sending the selected coupon information to the sales apparatus via a wireless communication in response to an operation performed by the user when the user purchases the commodity or utilizes the service at the store;

storing use log information as a use result of the selected coupon information sent by the sales apparatus; and

sending the use log information to the information distribution apparatus by the wireless communication.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving coupon information sent by a terminal apparatus associated with a user via a wireless communication when the user purchases a commodity or utilizes a service at a store where the computer system is located;

determining a classification of the coupon information;

selecting a settlement program corresponding to the classification of the coupon information from a plurality of settlement programs stored;

executing a settlement processing of the coupon information by using the selected settlement program; [[and]]

sending a use result of the coupon information to the terminal apparatus via the wireless communication; and

receiving a request of charge based on the use result from an information distribution apparatus associated with a purchase information trader via the wireless communication.